

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Virtual media images of actual physical media resources, such as O/S boot files and software installation disks, are provided in a remote directory structure. The remote directory structure stores the virtual media images along with access rights of multiple authorized users, such that control is provided over the retrieval of the virtual media images and use of data/programs within the images. The virtual media images may be stored in blocks, or multiple sub-blocks/children, corresponding the actual media resources. Moreover, the remote directory server may simply store virtual media pointers, or location identifiers, which point to another storage location (i.e., a remote computer) having the actual data content of the virtual media image. Accordingly, the directory server processes a user request for a desired portion of the virtual media images by evaluating whether the user is one of the plurality of authorized users and whether the access rights of the user encompass the desired portion. If the user is authenticated and the desired portion is within the user's access rights, then the user may obtain the desired portion of the virtual media images.